

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 00575 252230Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SAB-01 L-01 PM-03 INR-05 SP-02
SSO-00 INRE-00 /033 W
-----252237Z 042894 /62
O 252220Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 491

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0575

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, UN
SUBJECT: BOYD-VANCE TALKS

PLEASE PASS TO GENERAL DOLVIN

1. CONVERSATION WITH PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR CARLOS LOPEZ-GUEVARA TODAY CONFIRMS OUR EARLIER SUSPICION (JORDEN-BELL TELECON) THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD PLANS TO TRY TO TURN HIS CALL ON SECRETARY VANCE INTO WHAT AMOUNTS TO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS. BOYD HAS DRAWN UP AN AGENDA AND A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE, WHICH ARE STILL BEFORE TORRIJOS FOR APPROVAL. LOPEZ-GUEVARA HAS PROMISED TO GIVE US A COPY AS SOON AS THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

2. JUDGING FROM BOYD'S INTERVIEW WITH AP (SEE USINFO MEDIA REACTION OF TODAY), AND LOPEZ-GUEVARA'S REMARKS TO US, IT APPEARS THAT BOYD WOULD LIKE TO COME TO AT LEAST A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WHEREBY WE WOULD AGREE TO THE YEAR 2000 AND PANAMA WOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS ON NEUTRALITY AND DEFENSE RIGHTS BEYOND 2000 (BOYD TOLD AP THAT IF THE US COULD NOT ACCEPT UN OR OAS GUARANTEES, "PANAMA WOULD BE READY TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A BILATERAL TREATY THAT
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WOULD GUARANTEE THE NEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL." BOYD JAN. 23 TOLD DIE WELT CORRESPONDENT THAT 1888 CONSTAN-
TINOPLE STRAITS TREATY WOULD BE A GOOD MODEL
FOR GURANTEERING NEURALITY, LEADING THE CORRESPONDENT
TO THINK BOYD WOULD RESURFACE THIS IDEA WITH THE U.S.
AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.)

3. BOYD'S PLAN NOW IS TO BRING LOPEZ-GUEVARA AND EDWIN FABREGA, PLUS PERHAPS OTHERS, WITH HIM TO WASHINGTON FOR THE TALKS WITH VANCE.

4. IN VIEW OF TORRIJOS' SEEMINGLY TOUGH STAND ON NEUTRALITY (PANAMA 544), HE MAY NOT APPROVE BOYD'S SCHEME. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO DISCOURAGE LOPEZ-GUEVARA FROM TRYING TO TURN THE BOYD-VANCE MEETING INTO A NEGOTIATING SESSION, AND I PLAN TO MAKE THIS POINT STRONGLY WITH BOYD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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